

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03 STR-08

TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 SS-20 NSC-07 L-03

DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 SAJ-01 EA-11 FEA-02

SCI-06 INT-08 DRC-01 /173 W
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R 071635Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3613

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS ROME 3234

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EEC,SXF, ENRG

SUBJ: PRESS COMMENTARY ON EC/ARAB COOPERATION INITIATIVES

1. ENTIRE SPECTRUM OF MARCH 7 ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS US IRRITATION OVER EC INITIATIVE FOR DIALOGUE WITH ARAB COUNTTIES, ALTHOUGH PRIORITY ATTENTION TO CURRENT GOVERNMENT CRISIS HAS CAUSED COVE- RAGE TO BE RELEGATED TO BACK PAGES OF NEWSPAPERS. TONE IS GENE- RALLY ONE OF SURPRISE AND UNHAPPINESS OVER SUCH HARSH US CRITICISM OF THE EC INITIATIVE, ALTHOUGH SOME APPRECIATION IS SHOWN FOR US DESIRE FOR PRIOR CONSULTATION AMONG ALLIES. SEVERAL OF THE AR- TICLES EMPHASIZE BASIC CONTRADICTION BETWEEN EUROPE'S DEPENDE- UNCLASSIFIED

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NCE UPON US YET ITS DESIRE FOR AUTONOMY.

2. MILAN'S /CORRIERE DELLA SERA/ REFERS TO "DEEP" AMERICAN IRRITATION, WHICH COULD NOT BE CAUSED ALONE BY A SIMPLE LACK OF CONSULTATIONS. /LA STAMPA/ SUGGESTS THAT AMERICAN REACTION IS BOTH SURPRISING AND UNDERSTANDABLE: ON ONE HAND, WASHINGTON THOUGHT IT COULD COUNT ON EUROPEAN DISCIPLINE AND ACCEPTANCE OF US LEADERSHIP AS EVIDENCED IN WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE, BUT KISSINGER EITHER SEEMS OR PRETENDS NOT TO UNDERSTAND THAT EUROPEANS SPEAK WITH DIFFERENT VOICES IN BRUSSELS AND WASHINGTON -- "AUTONOMOUS AND EUROPEAN" IN THE FORMER, AND "DISCIPLINED AND ATLANTIC" IN THE LATTER.

3. ROME'S /MESSAGGERO/ NORMALLY UNFRIENDLY TOWARD US, CHIDES AMERICANS FOR CRITICIZING LACK OF EUROPEAN CONSULTATIONS IN VIEW OF "SENSATIONAL" US INITIATIVE TOWARD CHINA AND USSR WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH NATO ALLIES. /IL SOLE 24 ORE/ NOTES EUROPEAN PERPLEXITY OVER SEVERITY OF US CRITICISM. SUGGESTS THIS MIGHT BE CONSEQUENCE OF US FEAR OF POSSIBLY WEAKENED ROLE FOR ENERGY COORDINATING GROUP, OVER WHICH US INTENDED TO EXERT "ABSOLUTE LEADERSHIP." VOLPE

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